

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019, 5:30 p.m., Old Schoolhouse Common

Present: Selectboard members: Richard Baker and Christopher Martin Visitors: Kevin Farnham, Jacqueline Soule, Michele Gonzales, Kathleen Hayes, Margaret Eberhardt

At 5:30 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Martin

Changes or additions to the agenda: Grand List changes, Sheriff Contract, School House Commons Maintenance, Curb Cut on Upper Depot Road

Public Comment: None.

Improvements to Davis Rd: Kevin Farnham, reviewed a request to improve Davis Road which is a legal trail. He was present on behalf of Mark Dumouchelle, a property owner on the road who is interested in bringing power to his camp. Green Mountain Power wants a 20-foot wide path cleared of trees for the power lines. The road currently is only cleared for a narrow roadway. In addition, it is proposed to replace various culverts. Chris explained that town approval is required for the work, but the town does not maintain legal trails and does not make improvements on legal trails. Jacqueline Soule, who owns property on the road, is concerned with the aesthetics of the clearing and potential impact on wildlife. Rich questioned whether the legal trail had any public purpose since it no longer connects to other trails or roads. He said that maybe the town should consider throwing up the trail. Given that there were questions about the exact work to be done, the Select Board requested that the owner be contacted and asked to have Green Mountain Power mark the location of the poles and that Kevin mark which trees would be cut. The Select Board would then like to hold a special meeting at the site to review the proposed work. The abutters would be notified of the meeting.

Reappraisal Update: The listers were present to discuss the reappraisal status. They presented a letter proposed to be sent out to potential contractors in order to determine interest in the reappraisal. The state advisor would be reviewing the letter and the draft RFP shortly. The letter would go out after review by the state. The RFP would also be reviewed by the Town Attorney once the state advisor has completed her review. The Select Board approved the proposed process.

Animal Control Ordinance: Chris reported on the meeting at Calais which is having problems with horses running free. It appears that the town could enforce Title 20, but the state ordinance is dated and has small fees. Instead it seems that a separate town ordinance would be better. The town ordinance would be reviewing animals running at large as a public nuisance. There was discussion of issuing tickets versus court injunctions. Margaret Eberhardt provided some input on her experience with the Judicial Bureau. Rich suggested that maybe the ordinance should cover other public nuisances such as large events or excessive ongoing noise. Rich and Chris will research other towns that have public nuisance ordinances. This item will be added to a future agenda for further discussion.

Cemetery Ordinance: Review of the draft ordinance was tabled in order to review it when all members were present.

New Discovery Cemetery: The Select Board approved having Nate Ebert do a Level 2 assessment of the trees at the cemetery at a cost of \$600.

Radon: Chris reported that he is still investigating this matter and obtaining pricing. This item will be added to a future agenda for further discussion.

DRB Appointment: Rich moved to appoint Jon Groveman to the DRB vacancy. The motion carried unanimously.

Bunker Hill Circle: The Select Board reviewed the plans prepared by Don Marsh. Chris will arrange a meeting with Don and the Road Foreman to go over the plans in the field. Dig Safe will also be contacted so that Plainfield Water can locate their lines. It was requested that Bobbi update VLCT insurance on this matter. A directive from the Select Board will be required before the road crew proceeds with the work.

Grand List Changes: The Select Board approved and signed the grand list update regarding the removal of a mobile home.

Sheriff Department Contract: Brent Myers offered to come in and discuss Select Board work priorities for the Sheriff Department. This item will be added to a future agenda for further discussion.

School House Maintenance: The Select Board reviewed regular tasks performed by Dan Tetreault and additional special tasks that are recommended by Dan. Chris will contact Dan to discuss which of the special tasks Dan feels he can complete within his normal working hours and which would require additional hours by Dan or would need to be contracted out. This item will be added to a future agenda for further discussion.

Curb Cut Opening on Upper Depot Road: The Select Board reviewed a request for a new driveway opening on Upper Depot Road near the intersection with Lower Depot Road. No site plan was submitted and there was some confusion regarding whether the opening was on the northern or southern end of the property. According to the description, it appears to be located near the intersection with Lower Depot Road. The road foreman has marked trees to be cleared in order to provide adequate site distance. The Select Board approved the curb cut opening with the understanding that the curb cut is located approximately 12 feet from the intersection with Lower Depot Road.

Expenses, Permits & Payroll: Selectboard members read and signed reports for General Expenses and Payroll.

Review and Approval of Minutes: The July 16, 2019 minutes were not reviewed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Baker, Select Board member

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the August 6, 2019 Selectboard Meeting.
A True Record. Attest, _____, Town Clerk
